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ANOTHER JOURNAL.—A successor to the late *American Quarterly Microscopical Journal* is announced, in the form of a monthly by the same editor, and in a more popular form. The first number is promised for the present month. The editor's name is a sufficient guarantee of the scientific spirit and energetic management of the new enterprise, which can scarcely fail, and ought not to fail, at the low subscription price of one dollar a year, to receive so general a support as to become self-sustaining and permanent. It is published by Romyne Hitchcock, at 51 Maiden Lane, N. Y.

ADULTERATIONS IN FOOD.—The prize offered last summer for the best two slides illustrating the adulteration of some common article of food, one slide to show the genuine article and the other to show an adulterated form actually sold and used, will be awarded at the meeting of the American Society of Microscopists, next summer. The donor, Mr. E. H. Griffeth, will substitute for the medal promised an objective suitably engraved, if preferred by the winner.

EXCHANGES. — Fine diatoms and other marine material for named diatoms, diatomaceous earths or other good mounted objects.—M. A. Booth, Longmeadow, Mass.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— In the *American Journal of Science and Arts* for December, Prof. James D. Dana, the editor, and who is, we need not remind our readers, one of the leading geologists of his time, reprints the bill for the establishment of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Public Domain, and adds his weighty comments on the "unexpected amendment" to this bill introduced by Mr. King, the geologist-in-charge, and passed by Congress at the extra session, by which the survey is extended over the whole area of the United States, including the States as well as the Western Territories. Prof. Dana observes that the amendment was not even "presented for public discussion, although it bears on the political and industrial interests of the country, as well as on the status of science under the General Government." Prof. Dana then adds that "Having been a member of the National Academy, the writer has felt it a duty here to state, that this proposed expansion of the field of work under the 'Director of the Geological Survey' is wholly foreign to the views expressed in the Report of the Committee, and to the opinions brought out in their discussions. Moreover, it is entirely at variance with the objects set before the committee by the Act of Congress requiring its appointment: this act asking that the members 'take under consideration the methods and expenses of conducting all surveys of a scientific character under

the War or Interior Department and the surveys of the Land Office, and to report to Congress as soon thereafter as may be practicable, a plan for surveying and mapping the Territories of the United States on such general system as will, in their judgment, secure the best results at the least possible cost.' The plan set forth by the committee, besides having direct reference to the Territories, had in view that economy of expenditure, suggested in the act of Congress; while the new scheme, with the proposed enlargement of its scope, would involve—as State geological surveys have shown—millions of outlay for the strictly geological part, and indefinite millions besides for the economical branch—the study of 'the mineral resources and products of the National Domain,' *'and the States.'*

"The writer is not informed as to the character of the discussion over the proposed amendment in the House of Representatives. But it seems to be plain, from the change of wording, that the meaning intended to be conveyed by it was that the director 'may extend his examination into States' *which adjoin Territories.* There is an evident absurdity in an expression which adds the States—nearly the whole country—to the Territories. Had the general survey of the United States been intended by the House, the idea would have been brought out by the simple substitution of the words United States for 'National Domain.' "

Prof. Dana also adds: "A change so great in the administration of the affairs of the Government should have a full discussion before it is accepted. It will appear to many that the Constitution has left to the States the making of their own geological surveys and the study of their own economical resources—as past history seems to attest—and that such an infringement on State rights and assumption of State responsibilities would be politically wrong; and also, that investigations into the mineral resources of the States, whether of a mine or of a granite quarry, would be followed by other evils through encroachments on private rights, and the temptations to favor private enterprises. The General Government, unlike many in foreign lands, has no ownership in the mines of California or of any other of the States, and hence has no need to establish a Mining Bureau for the country at large."

Coming from the source it does, this is a weighty protest, and is in the line of criticism adopted by this journal.¹ While the U. S. Geological Surveys under Hayden, Powell and the U. S. Engineers, Lieut. Wheeler in charge, were confining their attention to developing our knowledge of the natural resources of the Western Territories, with excellent results already accomplished and with a great mass of unpublished material for valuable final reports which will now probably never see the light; all this was

¹ AMERICAN NATURALIST, May, 1879, p. 343, August number, p. 535.

not only interrupted, but stopped, through the unwise action of a handful, not of politicians, but scientists. The result has proved, we fear, that it would have been better to have let well enough alone, for during the past season little or no geological exploration has been carried on in the Western Territories; small parties were sent to Leadville and the Eureka mines and the Comstock lodes and the California gold fields, no general geological work having, apparently, been done at all! The people want and are expending money for more information about the unsurveyed lands of the Far West; the scientific world demand and should have widely extended and thorough topographical, geological and biological surveys of that vast region, such as have been inaugurated and carried on in the past; these, as we have always felt should be directed by one mind, and for this reason some members of the National Academy voted for the consolidation of the different surveys then in the field. For a United States Survey of the Public Lands to expend a large or moderate proportion of its money and means in one or several of the Eastern States, such as Tennessee, or one of the New England States, is absurd and uncalled for, and interferes with the work that may be going on or is in prospect in such State. American scientists hope and expect that geological explorations under the new *regime* will, hereafter at least, not be inferior in breadth of treatment, scientific accuracy and extent, to what it has been in the past; certainly that the zeal and previous success in field and general geological work of the Geologist of the Fortieth Parallel may not be lessened, but fulfill the expectations of the American people and scientific public.—*Editors Naturalist.*

— Prof. B. F. Mudge, formerly Mayor of Lynn, Mass., died in Kansas on Friday last. Mr. Mudge was born at Orringford, Me., August 11, 1817; his parents removed to Lynn when he was about a year old. He attended the common schools until he was 14 years old, when he went to work at shoemaking, at which he worked six years. Then fitting for college he entered Wesleyan University, where he graduated in 1840, subsequently taking up the study of law. In 1842 he was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession at Lynn until 1859. He was elected the second mayor of Lynn, serving in 1852 and 1853. He went West and became chemist for the Breckinridge Oil and Iron Company of Kentucky. When the war broke out he went to Kansas, and in 1863 was appointed State Geologist. In 1865 he was elected Professor of Geology and Associated Sciences at the State Agricultural College, and remained in that position for eight years. Since 1874 Mr. Mudge has been employed in exploring the geological formations of Western Kansas. He was also employed by Dr. Hayden in describing the tertiary and cretaceous formations in Kansas, and he made extensive collections for Prof. E. D. Cope, in that State, during which he discovered the first specimens of

toothed birds. Prof. Mudge spent the greater part of his later years in camp life beyond the settlements in the employ of Prof. Marsh as field geologist for Yale College. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of other scientific bodies, and was instrumental in founding the Kansas Academy of Sciences, of which he was the first president. In 1876 the office of State Superintendent of Public Institutions was offered him, but he preferred to continue his field work. In 1846 Mr. Mudge married Miss Mary E. A. Beckford, of Lynn. Six children were born to them, of whom three are still living.

— During his voyage near Behring Straits, Professor Nordenskiöld obtained numerous remains of Steller's manatee, of which only a few bones have hitherto existed in the St. Petersburg Museum. This large Sirenian, it will be remembered, became extinct in 1786.

— The death of A. H. Garrod, F.R.S., Oct. 17th, at the age of thirty-four, is announced in the English papers. He was making an excellent reputation as a comparative anatomist and physiologist.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Twelfth Annual Meeting.—Prof. B. F. Mudge, the president of the academy, lectured on the mound-builders of America. Papers were read by the president on the metamorphic deposits in Woodson county, and on Indian mounds in Davis and Riley counties, also by Dr. A. H. Thompson on Indian graves near Topeka. The report of the Commission on Botany was read by Prof. J. H. Carruth, who announced the discovery of about 120 species new to the State. A paper was read by Hon. F. G. Adams, of Topeka, on the phonetic representation of the Indian language, describing the systems or alphabets invented by the Cherokee, Sequoyah, and by Mr. Meeker, a missionary who formerly resided in Johnson county. The alphabet formed by Mr. Meeker was said to be adequate to the perfect phonetic representation of any Indian language, and books were printed in the characters of that alphabet in eleven different dialects.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Nov. 5th.—Mr. W. O. Crosby spoke on the Evidences of Compression in the Rocks of the Boston basin, and Mr. J. W. Feukes on *Abyla pentagona*, and its relation to a theory of bilateral symmetry. Nov. 19th.—Mr. Ernest Ingersoll read a brief survey of the native oysters of Massachusetts. Prof. A. Hyatt spoke on some remarkable changes undergone by fresh water snails (*Lymnæa megasoma*) in captivity, as observed by Mr. A. P. Whitfield. Dec. 3d.—Mr. J. S. Diller remarked on the felsites and their associated rocks north of Boston.